

**NEW RIVER VALLEY
CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM**



**The New River Valley Crisis Intervention Team:
How Pre-Booking Diversion Benefits the Police,
the Community and the Consumer**

GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE
ON SELF DETERMINATION,
EMPOWERMENT AND RECOVERY
DECEMBER 9, 2004

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What is CIT?

- Pre-booking diversion program
 - Highly trained officers (20% of regular patrol division)
 - More effective intervention with MH/SA population
 - Reducing unnecessary incarceration
 - Increasing referral to therapeutic services
 - Utilizing therapeutic drop off location, NOT the jail

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Overall goal of a pre-booking diversion program such as CIT:

- *To prevent the inappropriate jailing of persons with mental illness and instead, provide treatment in the community.*

The diversion occurs at the point of contact with highly trained, specialized law enforcement officers before formal charges are made.

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Background of CIT:

The CIT program was created in May 1988 by the Memphis Police Department and has been replicated in more than ten cities nationwide.

To date, all successful replication of CIT has occurred in or around large metropolitan areas.

The CIT program in the New River Valley is the first-ever ***rural, multi-jurisdictional*** adaptation of CIT.

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CIT focuses on the need for:

- Advanced training and specialization for patrol officers
- Immediacy of the crisis response
- Emphasis on officer and consumer safety
- Proper referral to mental health care for persons in crisis

No other model of crisis response by law enforcement incorporates all four of these elements.

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WHY CIT?

- ✱ CIT is a great idea
- ✱ If the NRV can do it, we can do it
- ✱ My community will benefit
- ✱ I can get the ball rolling

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**SAMHSA Community Action Grant
for
Consensus Building and Planning**

April 1, 2002 - September 30, 2003

**Federal money allocated to study and replicate
proven “exemplary practices.”**

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65 Stakeholders Organized in Three Strands:

- Consumers/Family Members
- Law Enforcement Leaders
- Mental Health System Leaders

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Leadership Team created that included 2 or 3 representatives appointed by each strand.

Leadership Team met monthly to coordinate and synthesize the work of the 65 stakeholders.

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Our Mantra:

***“It’s All
About
Change!”***



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Consensus Reached!

June 2003 – Memoranda of Understanding entered into by:

- **Mental Health Association of the New River Valley (the coordinating entity)**
- **New River Valley's 14 law enforcement agencies**
- **New River Valley Community Services**
- **National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of the New River Valley**

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**SAMHSA Community Action Grant #2
for
Implementation**

October 1, 2003 - September 30, 2005

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Committee Work Begun:

- Training Faculty and Curriculum
- The Bridge (Triage Facility)
- Consumer and Family Support Services

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NRV-CIT Faculty Selected

- 20 stakeholders sent to Memphis for 40 hour training by the original CIT gurus, Major Sam Cochran and Dr. Randolph Dupont.

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Top-Notch Faculty with Broad Expertise:

- ✓ Consumer and family perspectives
- ✓ Diagnostic and clinical skills
- ✓ Treatment modalities
- ✓ Substance abuse
- ✓ Developmental disabilities
- ✓ Suicide assessment and intervention
- ✓ Adolescent issues
- ✓ Legal issues and the civil commitment process
- ✓ De-escalation techniques
- ✓ Role play instruction techniques

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The New River Valley's CIT Faculty will conduct semi-annual week-long CIT trainings in Blacksburg, VA (40 hours DCJS Certified, including 4 hours legal).

First local training held September 20-24, 2004.

- 28 NRV officers trained to date.

Second training scheduled for Jan. 24-28, 2005.

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Goals of the 40-hour CIT Training:

- ✓ Reduce injury to officers and consumers
- ✓ Reduce the need for lethal force
- ✓ Prevent unnecessary incarceration of mental health consumers
- ✓ Train officers in de-escalation skills and techniques
- ✓ Train officers to recognize mental health crisis symptoms and behaviors
- ✓ Provide officers with information about community mental health resources
- ✓ Provide a therapeutic location where officers can bring consumers in crisis for assessment

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Our Local Goals:

- 20% of all NRV uniformed patrol officers trained as CIT Officers.
- 100% of dispatchers trained to dispatch CIT Officers where they are needed.
- Triage Facility (The Bridge) for CIT Officers to take persons in need of evaluation.

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For Law Enforcement:

- Specialized training enhances community policing efforts
- Officers can quickly return to regular patrol duties
- Risk of injury is significantly reduced
- Jailers do not have to contend with inappropriately incarcerated individuals

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For the Community:

- Officers spend more time in the community
- Costs are reduced as consumers are diverted from expensive jails and into less expensive community treatment where appropriate
- Mental health and substance abuse problems are addressed sooner and more consistently

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For the Consumer:

- Better relationships are developed between consumers and CIT Officers
- The stigma of unnecessary incarceration and assessment in local jails is removed
- Consumers receive more timely, efficient, and therapeutic assessments and treatment

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**CIT Pre-booking Diversion
is a
Win-Win-Win!**

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